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How Aruban beaches came to be!

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK
PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO	ANDERSON BAHAMON	JEAN PAUL	MAILLEYN ALVARADO	MARRYBELL MADURO	MAILLEYN ALVARADO	RICKY THOMAS
SINGER	SINGER	SAXOPHONIST	VIOLINIST	SINGER	VIOLINIST	GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

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Hegseth says he wants the Pentagon to prioritize speed over cost when buying weapons

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Friday the Pentagon is revamping how the military buys weapons, shifting the focus away from producing advanced and complex technology and toward products that can be made and delivered quickly.

Hegseth, speaking to military leaders and defense contractors in Washington, said the "objective is simple: transform the entire acquisition system to operate on a wartime footing, to rapidly accelerate the fielding of capabilities and focus on results."

Hegseth gave his address, which ran for more than an hour, at the National War College. It delved much more into military minutia than a previous big speech to hundreds of military leaders abruptly summoned to a base in Virginia, where he declared an end to "woke" culture and announced "gender-neutral" directives for troops.

Hegseth acknowledged the granularity Friday, saying, "If folks are watching this on Fox, their eyes are rolling over."

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth speaks during a joint press conference with South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back, following the 57th Security Consultative Meeting at the Defense Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025.

Associated Press

The defense secretary argued his changes are meant to move the military away from the more traditional process that prioritized delivering a perfect, if expensive and late, product in favor of something that is less ideal but delivered quickly. Some experts say the changes could mean less transparency and the military ending up with systems that may not function as expected.

"An 85% solution in the hands of our armed forces today is infinitely better than an unachievable 100% solution ... endlessly undergoing testing or awaiting additional technological development," he said. He asserted that what used to take several years could happen within one.

The shift is coming as Russia's grinding war has seen an underfunded Ukraine using cheap, mass-produced drones to effectively hold off a technologically superior Moscow, which is armed with advanced missiles and hundreds of tanks.

"Drones are the biggest battlefield innovation in a generation, accounting for most of this year's casualties in Ukraine," Hegseth argued in a July memo before declaring that "while global military drone production skyrocketed over the last three years, the previous administration deployed red tape." That memo lifted some Pentagon restrictions on drone purchases.

Todd Harrison, a defense budget and acquisition expert at the American Enterprise Institute, said Hegseth's ideas represent a significant shift in how the military would buy arms.

But he warned that if contractors aren't incentivized "to check all the boxes" for everything the military wants in a product, "they may deliver something faster, but it may not do what you want it to do."

The way the U.S. military buys weapons and platforms has faced criticism for various reasons for decades. In recent years, the most famous example of the Pentagon's failure to get the right gear to the front line was the scores of troops that died from roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan because of poorly armored vehicles that weren't designed for the conflict.❑

Trump accuses foreign-owned meat packers of inflating U.S. beef prices and calls for investigation

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday accused foreign-owned meat packers of driving up the price of beef in the U.S. and asked the Department of Justice to open an investigation.

President Donald Trump speaks with reporters during a meeting with Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban in the Cabinet Room of the White House, Friday, Nov. 7, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

The Republican president announced the move on social media days after his party suffered losses in key elections in which the winning Democratic candidates focused relentlessly on the public's concerns about the cost of living.

"I have asked the DOJ to immediately begin an investigation into the Meat Packing Companies who are driving up the price of Beef through Illicit Collusion, Price Fixing, and Price Manipulation," Trump wrote in the social media post.

"We will always protect our American Ranchers, and they are being blamed for what is being done by Majority Foreign Owned Meat Packers, who artificially inflate prices, and jeopardize the security of our Nation's food supply," he continued.

Trump offered no proof to support his allegations.

"Action must be taken immediately to protect Consumers, combat Illegal Monopolies, and ensure these Corporations are not criminally profiting at the expense of the American People," he said.

Last month, Trump suggested the U.S. would buy Argentine beef to bring down stubbornly high prices for American consumers, angering U.S. cattle ranchers.

Beef prices have soared in part after drought and years of low prices led to the smallest U.S. herd size in decades. Trump's tariffs on Brazil, a major beef exporter, have also curbed imports.

Trump's accusations have renewed a bipartisan presidential fight against rising food prices.

Then-President Joe Biden talked with independent farmers and ranchers about initiatives to reduce food prices by increasing competition within the meat industry.

And then-Vice President Kamala Harris, who Trump defeated in winning reelection last year, used her campaign to vow to crackdown on food producers and major supermarkets " price gouging."❑

The government shutdown prompts the cancellation of some Veterans Day events

Grave markers of U.S. veterans are shown at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery where the upcoming annual Veterans Day program has been canceled due to the federal government shutdown in Dallas, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025.

Associated Press

By ANDREW DeMILLO
Associated Press

Normally on Veterans Day, volunteers gather at the Riverside National Cemetery in California to place flags alongside more than 300,000 gravesites. But not this year.

The longest federal government shutdown on record is curtailing and outright canceling parades, ceremonies and other events across the U.S. that are normally held to mark Veterans Day. It's another fallout of the shutdown that has disrupted flights and food assistance, and was already being squarely felt by military families who are worried about their paychecks.

In California, organizers of "A Flag for Every Hero" said they couldn't move forward with the event on Tuesday without access to restrooms, traffic control and other needs for the thousands of participants. Elsewhere, a lack of federal employees and access to military facilities has scrubbed other Veterans Day events.

"We have a responsibility to provide them the resources they need, and unfortunately with the shutdown we're unable to do that," Laura Herzog, founder and CEO of Honoring Our Fallen, which organizes the Riverside National Cemetery event.

Many communities will still hold Veterans Day gatherings, including some of the nation's largest and well-known events such as the annual observance at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia and the New York Veterans Day Parade.

The disruption to a federal holiday that is intended to honor those who have served in the armed forces comes as military families face uncertainty week to week about their pay. The Trump administration has found ways to pay troops twice since the shutdown began Oct. 1.

The Texas National Cemetery Foundation canceled an annual Veterans Day event at the cemetery in Dallas-Fort Worth, saying organizers wouldn't have time to stage the ceremony even if the shutdown ended soon. In Virginia, city leaders in Hampton cited concerns about a lack of servicemembers to participate in its annual parade because of the shutdown.

"Our veterans deserve to be recognized with great pomp and circumstance," Hampton City Manager Mary Bunting said in a news release. "Without the presence of our active-duty military, we are concerned that the parade would appear sparse and that the recognition might fall short of the honor our veterans so richly deserve."

Organizers of Detroit's annual Veterans Day parade say they're moving forward with the Sunday event, but it won't include an appearance by a U.S. Army band or a helicopter flyover. Others are relying on even more help from volunteers than usual to make up for the lack of federal resources.

The Wyoming Valley Veterans Day Parade, which has been a tradition in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, every year since 1945, will still take place Sunday. But organizers have had to scramble because of the shutdown, asking veterans to participate. And instead of military vehicles, the parade will feature motorcycle groups and car clubs.❑

Supreme Court weighs longshot appeal to overturn decision legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A call to overturn the landmark Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide is on the agenda Friday for the justices' closed-door conference.

Among the new cases the justices are expected to consider is a longshot appeal from Kim Davis, the former Kentucky court clerk who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples following the court's 2015 ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges.

Davis had been trying to get the court to overturn a lower court order for her to pay $360,000 in damages and attorney's fees to a couple whom she denied a marriage license.

The justices could say as early as Monday what they'll do.

In urging the court to take up her case, Davis' lawyers repeatedly invoked the words of Justice Clarence Thomas, who alone among the nine justices has called for erasing the same-sex marriage ruling.

Thomas was one of four dissenting justices in 2015. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito are the other dissenters who also remain on the court.

Roberts has been silent on the subject since he wrote a dissenting opinion in the case. Alito has continued to criticize the decision, but said recently he was not advocating that it be overturned.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who was not on the court in 2015, has said there are times when the court should correct mistakes and overturn decisions, as it did in the 2022 case that ended a constitutional right to abortion.

But Barrett has suggested recently that same-sex marriage might be in a different category than abortion because people have relied on the decision when they married and had children.

Davis drew national attention to eastern Kentucky's Rowan County when she turned away same-sex couples, saying her faith prevented her from complying with the high court ruling. She defied court orders to issue the licenses until a federal judge jailed her for contempt of court in September 2015.❑

Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis makes a statement to the media at the front door of the Rowan County Judicial Center in Morehead, Ky. Sept. 14, 2015.

Associated Press

ICE to open national call center to find unaccompanied migrant children amid surge in partnerships

By JACK BROOK
Associated Press/Report for America

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement plans to open a national call center to help local and state law enforcement agencies find unaccompanied migrant children who entered the country illegally, according to a federal contracting document released this week.

ICE said it has an "immediate need" to establish an around-the-clock call center in Nashville, Tennessee, capable of handling 6,000 to 7,000 daily calls to help law enforcement with "locating unaccompanied alien children."

ICE seeks to open the call center by the end of March and be fully operational by June. It requests information on the number of interested vendors and what technology they can use to "maximize call efficiency."

ICE also issued another notice seeking information on vendors able to transport thousands of detainees daily from across Texas, where a new state law taking effect next year mandates all counties with a jail enter into ICE partnerships.

The proposed call center and transport programs come as the government pours $170 billion into immigration and border security following the passage of the Republican Party's big bill which President Donald Trump signed into law in July. There has been an explosion of partnerships with local and state law enforcement agencies to enforce immigration laws.

The Trump administration's immigration crackdown has also included several policy changes focused on unaccompanied minors and ramped up attempts to deport them. About 2,000 unaccompanied children were in government custody as of July.

An unaccompanied migrant child is defined by the U.S. government as someone who is under 18, lacks lawful immigration status and has no parent or guardian in the country to take custody of them.

Hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied minor children have traveled to the U.S. southern border in recent years. When they enter the country, Border Patrol transfers the children to the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement which houses them in a network of shelters across the country. They can be released from the shelter system to stay with sponsors who are generally parents, relatives or family friends.

The Trump administration has been conducting a nationwide review of the 450,000 migrant children who crossed the U.S.-Mexico border without their parents during President Joe Biden's term. Federal agents have intensified scrutiny on migrant children's sponsors, requiring them to submit to DNA tests and fingerprinting among other measures. While the administration has said these efforts are intended to ensure the safety, migrant advocates are dubious given Trump's zero-tolerance approach to immigration and mass deportation agenda.

The ICE notice did not specify why the greater Nashville area was chosen as the intended site. But CoreCivic Inc., one of the largest private detention contractors in the U.S., is headquartered there. The company, which has donated millions to GOP candidates at all levels of government, has benefited from a surge in ICE contracts.

A spokesperson for CoreCivic spokesperson did not comment on whether it would be contracted for the call center.

ICE is also searching for vendors capable of transporting detainees from anywhere in Texas, including hospitals, private residences and traffic stops, to one of 36 different ICE offices within 30 minutes.❑

A protester holds a sign as law enforcement officers stand outside a United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in Portland, Ore., on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025.
Associated Press

House cleaner shot to death on front porch after going to wrong house in Indianapolis suburb

By TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

Authorities are considering whether to charge an Indiana homeowner who they say shot and killed a woman working as a house cleaner after she mistakenly went to the wrong address.

Police officers found 32-year-old Maria Florinda Rios Perez De Velasquez dead just before 7 a.m. Wednesday on the front porch of the home in Whitestown, an Indianapolis suburb of about 10,000 people, according to a police news release. She was part of a cleaning crew that had gone to the wrong address, the release said.

Rios Perez's husband, Mauricio Velazquez, told WRTV in Indianapolis that he and his wife had been cleaning homes for seven months. Velazquez said he was standing with her at the home's front door on Wednesday morning but didn't realize she had been shot until she fell into his arms, bleeding.

In this image from video provided by WRTV, husband of Maria Florinda Rios Perez De Velasquez, Mauricio Velazquez, speaks during an interview in Indianapolis on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2025.
Associated Press

On a fundraising page, her brother described Rios Perez as a mother of four children. Police said Friday that she was from Indianapolis but the family plans to bury her in Guatemala, according to her obituary and her brother's fundraising page. The Associated Press was not able to reach family members directly on Friday.

Authorities have not publicly identified the shooter. Police turned over the findings from their investigation to Boone County Prosecutor Kent Eastwood on Friday afternoon, but the prosecutor said the decision on whether to file charges won't be easy.

The case brings Indiana's castle doctrine laws squarely into play, he said. Those laws allow a person to use reasonable force, including deadly force, to stop what they reasonably believe is an unlawful entry into their dwelling. Thirty-one states have similar laws on the books, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Denmark's government aims to ban access to social media for children under 15

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

Denmark's government on Friday announced an agreement to ban access to social media for anyone under 15, ratcheting up pressure on Big Tech platforms as concerns grow that kids are getting too swept up in a digitized world of harmful content and commercial interests.

The move would give some parents after a specific assessment the right to let their children access social media from age 13. It wasn't immediately clear how such a ban would be enforced: Many tech platforms already restrict preteens from signing up. Officials and experts say such restrictions don't always work.

Such a measure would be among the most sweeping steps yet by a European Union government to limit use of social media among teens and younger children, which has drawn concerns in many parts of an increasingly online world.

Speaking to The Associated Press, Caroline Stage, Denmark's minister for digital affairs, said 94% of Danish children under age 13 have profiles on at least one social media platform, and more than half of those under 10 do.

Caroline Stage, Danish Minister for Digitalization and representatives from the agreement parties attends a press conference about a new political agreement for better protection of children and young people online, in Copenhagen, Friday, Nov. 7, 2025.

Associated Press

"The amount of time they spend online the amount of violence, self-harm that they are exposed to online is simply too great a risk for our children," she said, while praising tech giants as "the greatest companies that we have. They have an absurd amount of money available, but they're simply not willing to invest in the safety of our children, invest in the safety of all of us."

No rush to legislation, no loopholes for tech giants

Stage said a ban won't take effect immediately. Allied lawmakers on the issue from across the political spectrum who make up a majority in parliament will likely take months to pass relevant legislation.

"I can assure you that Denmark will hurry, but we won't do it too quickly because we need to make sure that the regulation is right and that there is no loopholes for the tech giants to go through," Stage said. Her ministry said pressure from tech giants' business models was "too massive."

It follows a move in December in Australia, where parliament enacted the world's first ban on social media for children setting the minimum age at 16.

That made platforms including TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit, X and Instagram subject to fines of up to 50 million Australian dollars ($33 million) for systemic failures to prevent children younger than 16 from holding accounts.

Officials in Denmark didn't say how such a ban would be enforced in a world where millions of children have easy access to screens. But Stage noted that Denmark has a national electronic ID system nearly all Danish citizens over age 13 have such an ID and plans to set up an age-verification app. Several other EU countries are testing such apps.

"We cannot force the tech giants to use our app, but what we can do is force the tech giants to make proper age verification, and if they don't, we will be able to enforce through the EU commission and make sure that they will be fined up to 6% of their global income."

Aiming to shield kids from harmful content online

Many governments have been grappling with ways of limiting harmful fallout from online technologies, without overly squelching their promise. Stage said Denmark's legislative push was "not about excluding children from everything digital" but keeping them away from harmful content.❑

EU tightens visa restrictions on Russians over the Ukraine war and acts of sabotage

By LORNE COOK
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union on Friday made it harder for Russian citizens to enter Europe's ID-check free travel area due to Russia's continued war on Ukraine, increasing acts of sabotage blamed on Moscow and the potential misuse of visas.

Russian nationals can no longer get multiple-entry visas into the so-called Schengen area, which is made up of 25 of the 27 EU member countries, plus Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

They will now have to apply for a new visa each time they travel to Europe, "allowing for close and frequent scrutiny of applicants to mitigate any potential security risk," said the EU's executive branch, the European Commission.

Exceptions will be made for people "whose reliability and integrity is without doubt" like dissidents, independent journalists or human rights defenders, and for close family members of Russians living in the EU or family members of EU citizens living in Russia.

"We now face unprecedented drone disruptions and sabotage on our soil," EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said in a statement announcing the stricter visa rules. "Travelling to and freely moving within the EU is a privilege not a given."

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova bristled at the decision. "The European Commission apparently figured: 'Why does Western Europe need creditworthy tourists when there are illegal migrants living on benefits and Ukrainian draft dodgers?'"

The EU suspended its "visa facilitation agreement" with Russia after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and decided to "deprioritize" the granting of visas to Russian nationals, making it more time consuming to get a visa.

As a result, the number of visas issued to Russians drop from more than 4 million in 2019 to around 500,000 in 2023.❑

In this image, made from video and provided by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025, a Russian soldier fires a Malka self-propelled gun towards Ukrainian positions on an undisclosed location in Ukraine.

Associated Press

Mexico president's rivals cry foul as she uses groping incident to address gender violence

By FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The groping of Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum on a downtown street shone a bright light on the gender violence women face every day, but the country's political polarization has tarnished what under other circumstances would seem a natural moment for national solidarity, analysts say.

The president has tried to use the assault to send a clear message that such behavior is not acceptable. She has explained why she decided to press charges against the drunk man; she used her bully pulpit to pressure the remaining states that don't have sexual harassment on the books as a crime; and she talked about the need to make it easier for women to report such crimes.

But almost immediately political opponents accused her of using the incident to distract from another burning issue in Mexico: political violence. The previous weekend, a popular mayor in the western state of Michoacan was gunned down in public during Day of the Dead festivities. Protests against the violence were happening in several cities in the state and Sheinbaum was under pressure to offer new solutions for the state's persistent violence.

Opposition politicians went so far as to suggest that her assault was "staged" to change the narrative.

Ceci Flores, the leader of a collective of relatives searching for disappeared loved ones, who has clashed before with the administration, wrote bitterly on X that "our president only needed a few meters outside the palace to become a victim. That's the Mexico that we all walk every day: if we're lucky it's assault, if we're not they kill or disappear us."

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum gives a morning press conference at the National Palace in Mexico City, Monday, Nov. 3, 2025.

Associated Press

"A political distraction"

Sen. Alejandro Moreno, leader of the opposition Institutional Revolutionary Party, condemned violence against women, but in the same breath accused Sheinbaum's Morena party of using the incident as a "political distraction" from the mayor's killing.

Uruapan Mayor Carlos Alberto Manzo Rodríguez was killed last Saturday, shot by a 17-year-old who died at the scene, in what authorities said was an organized crime plot. On Wednesday, his widow met with Sheinbaum at the National Palace and later was sworn in to finish out his term.

On Tuesday, Sheinbaum was walking from the National Palace to the Education Ministry for a meeting when she stopped to speak with some citizens.

A video showed that with her back turned an obviously inebriated man put his arm around her, then touched her body with his hands and leaned in for kiss.❑

Van is chased by police in Bulgaria and crashes, killing six migrants

A vehicle is seen crashed out of a road after a police chase near Burgas, Bulgaria, Friday 7 Nov. 2025.

Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — A van carrying nine migrants who entered Bulgaria illegally crashed while being chased by police near the country's eastern Black Sea coast, killing six of the migrants, officials said Friday. The incident occurred near the city of Burgas shortly before midnight Thursday as police tried to stop the van, which had Romanian registration plates, Border Police Chief Anton Zlatanov told reporters. He said the driver repeatedly refused to stop at the signals given and, eventually, attempted to evade spike strips set by the police. The driver lost control and the van slipped off the road, overturned and plunged into a lake bordering the highway, killing six migrants at the scene.

Four others, including the Romanian driver, sustained minor injuries and were given first aid at the scene and then taken to a hospital.

Preliminary information suggested that the migrants were from Afghanistan.

Bulgaria, a Balkan country of 6.5 million, is located on a major route for migrants from the Middle East and Afghanistan to Europe. Only a small number of them plan to stay in the EU's poorest member, using Bulgaria instead as a transit corridor on their way westward. Zlatanov said that over the past two years up to 20 organized criminal groups involved in migrant trafficking have been neutralized.❑

A quick snack for the road

Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of wheat flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 0.5 cup of melted butter
- 1 cup water
- 1 egg

Directions:

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around ¼ inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the pastry.

Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to use it for this process. Your pastechi

is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few.❑

Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the shortsighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ❑

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Iberostar Hosts Shoco Ambassador Training for the Community of Aruba

As part of its ongoing commitment to a responsible model of tourism and biodiversity conservation, JOIA Aruba by Iberostar, through Aula di Lama, which is part of Iberostar Foundation, successfully hosted the Shoco Ambassador Training with collaboration of the Aruba Bird Life Conservation. The initiative, open to the general, took place from October 27 to 31, 2025.

The free training invited members of the Aruban community to participate in an engaging and educational experience dedicated to protecting and celebrating the island's national symbol, the Shoco (Athene cunicularia arubensis). The sessions aimed to raise awareness of local conservation efforts and promote a responsible coexistence between people and nature. It also highlighted projects such as the Shoco Sanctuary at Tierra del Sol Resort & Golf by Iberostar and Shoco Boulevard at JOIA Aruba by Iberostar.

In total, nearly 800 people took part in the Shoco Ambassador Training, including more than 360 employees from JOIA Aruba by Iberostar and Tierra del Sol Golf Course by Iberostar. This achievement reflects Iberostar's ongoing commitment to embedding sustainability into its daily operations and company culture.

The public sessions also welcomed partners and employees from other hotels, such as Boardwalk and Marriott, along with students from the University of Aruba. In addition, local media outlets attended one of the sessions to learn more about this initiative and help share its message of conservation across the Aruban community.

Next steps include extending the training to the Aruba Airport Authority (AAA) and local schools, continuing the mission to raise awareness and inspire environmental stewardship across the island. At the conclusion of each session, participants had the opportunity to purchase recycled Shoco pins, with proceeds donated to Aruba Birdlife Conservation. Each handcrafted pin, made from recycled wood, symbolizes their new role as a Shoco Ambassador.

This initiative is part of the global movement Iberostar Wave of Change. It focuses on providing transformative solutions in the field of circular economy, promoting the consumption of responsible sourced seafood, and improving the health of coastal areas. Beyond the environmental concerns, the movement also embraces broader social and sustainability goals across the destinations where Iberostar operates. Through education, conservation, and community engagement, Iberostar continues to inspire both locals and visitors to help preserve Aruba's unique biodiversity for generations to come.

About Iberostar Hotels & Resorts

Iberostar Hotels & Resorts is the hotel division and core business of Iberostar Group, a 100% family-owned Spanish multinational with almost 70 years of history in tourism, with its business origins dating back to 1877. Its portfolio features 32,000 rooms across 100 four- and five-star hotels in 13 countries, dedicated to delivering exceptional quality and heartfelt service. At the same time, it upholds a responsible tourism model that prioritizes the well-being of both people and nature.

Welcoming 2.5 million guests annually and boasting a prime beachfront presence, the Iberostar Beachfront Resorts brand offers three distinct segments to fulfill every traveler's holiday dreams. Iberostar Waves delivers fun-filled experiences, perfect for families and couples who love the beach. Iberostar Selection provides premium, spacious, and relaxing stays with exceptional service. Lastly, JOIA by Iberostar is a collection of luxury resorts in exclusive locations, distinguished by highly personalized and refined service.❑

*Iberostar's portfolio of Beachfront Resorts excludes its interests in Cuba.

Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! ❑

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Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (Sternula antillarum) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (Ajaia ajaja) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamento. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaeceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The affore mentioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it!❑

The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

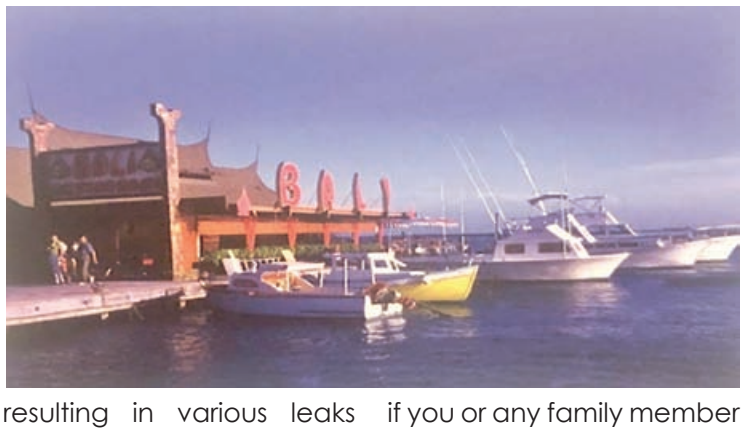
Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re) opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation,



resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors!

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

The Aruban way of life; Creating community with Cas di Torto

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban people understand that a happy life is spent in great ambience with your loved ones. Passed down from one generation to the other, building community has been a key aspect in forging our traditions and customs. The Cas di Torto (mud house) played a big role in cultivating community, bridging families together and forming close bonds with your neighbors—something we highly value today.

Cas di Torto: History and construction

The origin of the Cas di Torto is said to date back to the early 19th century in the Paraguana Peninsula in Venezuela. Refugees who sought sanctuary on Aruba introduced this building method to the island.

The uprights of the walls were made with sturdy and straight wayaca or kwihi wood, or from thin mangrove struts. Then, the wattle walls were weaved in using branches and twigs from the warero and sisal plant, daubed with a mixture of grass and mud. Finally, the walls got a coat of white plaster to seal everything in.

For roofing, corn stalks, palm fonds and straws were used, allowing air to flow freely through the house. This method of roofing was known throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in Aruba eventually got replaced with use of mud and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses looks like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").

Building community

Building Torto houses was often a community effort. Young couples who were about to get married had to have their house built before they could tie the knot and start their own family. This is where the help of the community comes into play.

Neighbors, extended family and friends would all help in the construction of a Torto House. And everyone had a role: The men oversaw the building of the house, and the women were tasked with collecting wood and straws, cooking and taking care of the little ones.

The couple's family were primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, someone usually had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm animals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older kids had their tasks; the older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and mixing the mud.

The average duration of constructing a Cas di Torto was 4 months.

At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you tomorrow.

Nowadays, traditional Cas di Torto are rare, especially those that are still inhabited. Houses that do exist probably date back more than a century.❑

Picture credits: Aruba National Library (BNA) and the Monumentbureau archive on Coleccion.aw

How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to sick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

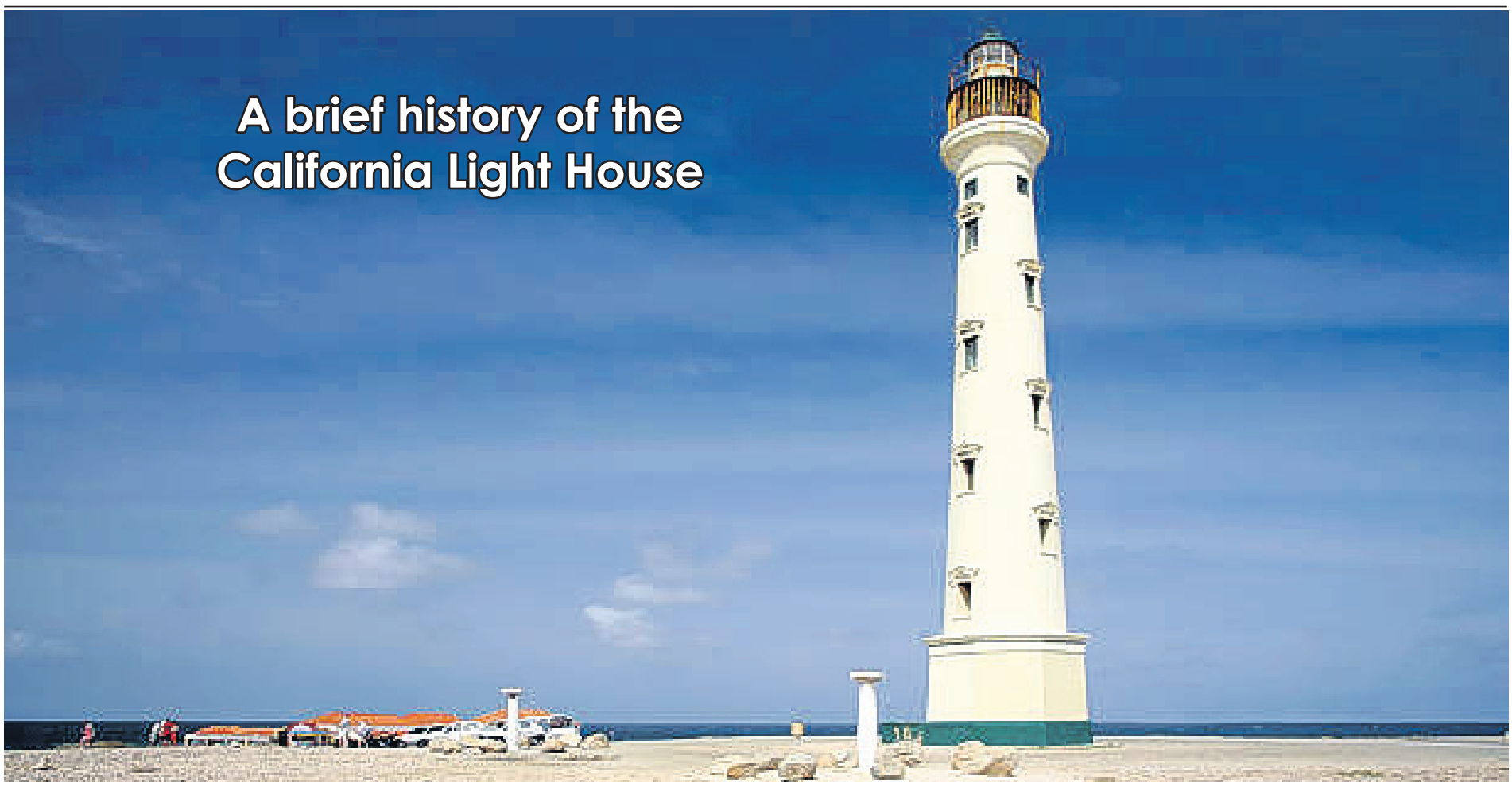
Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question…and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom.❑

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).

A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck.

These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations.

Special announcement form the Monument Fund Aruba for 2025

Starting Monday, October 13th, until the end of 2025, the California Lighthouse will be closed to the public. The reasoning behind this is that the lighthouse is due for a major maintenance.

Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba (SMFA) is the owner of the lighthouse and operates under a maintenance plan in which each year, different monuments belonging to the foundation receive upkeep. Recently, work was completed on the Casita Geel on Weststraat, and now it will continue with the California Lighthouse.

Due to the lighthouse's location and its daily use, it is one of the monuments that requires a lot of maintenance. The work is expected to last approximately two and a half months.❑

CROSSWORD

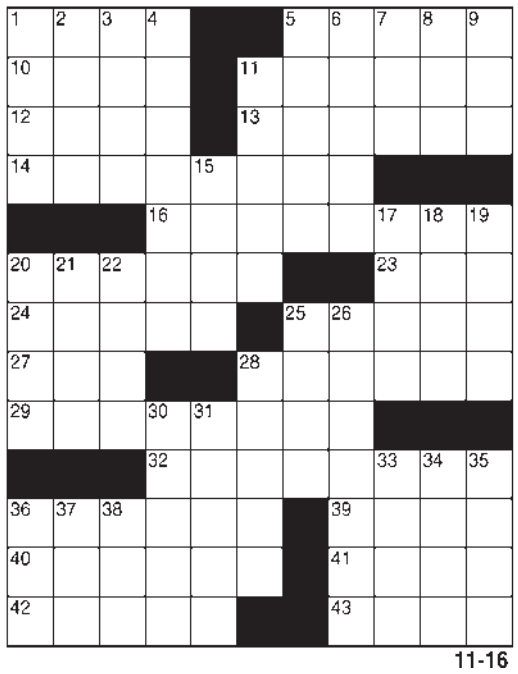
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Barber symbol
5 Burglar's crime
10 Diva's piece
11 Sports spots
12 Calls on
13 Entertain at bedtime
14 Sofa for two
16 Complete tie
20 Musical transitions
23 Carnival setting
24 Complains
25 Temperamental
27 Broad st.
28 Makes fun of
29 Reporter's specialty
32 Diet fare
36 Merry
39 Bakery worker
40 Smart guys
41 Folk learning
42 Year divisions
43 Gold-filled fort

DOWN

1 Painter Klee
2 Words of approximation
3 Schreiber of "Spotlight"
4 Abated
5 Tire feature
6 Moor plant
7 Wrap up
8 Obese
9 General on Chinese menus
11 Provinces
15 Espies
17 Amorous archer
18 Staff member
19 Gifts for kids
20 Checkout act
21 Roof feature
22 Got larger
25 Nasty
26 Creamer alternative
28 Diving ducks
30 Glossy
31 Bills
33 Bus. sch. course
34 Prefix with dynamic
35 "Jurassic Park" beast
36 Mouth part
37 Bullfight cry
38 Neckline shape



11-16

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-16 CRYPTOQUOTE

R B W S K Z C M C Z F B Y C E E C K

Z F J K O P V K Y C E E C K R A I B R R.

— O B C S O B I W P F J K O Z C K

Y W S T B S

Cryptoquote: HOW INAPPROPRIATE TO CALL THIS PLANET EARTH WHEN IT IS QUITE CLEARLY OCEAN. — ARTHUR C. CLARKE

Cruise ship Schedule: Nov. 2 - 8 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
SUN	02	*FREEWINDS - Dept.*	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	04	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	05	EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	18.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SAT	08	ROYAL CLIPPER	09.00	18.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

		8						5
5	3					9	7	
7	2		8			4	3	
		3	7		9	6		2
		9	6				5	4
6		5		2	4	7	9	
			5	6	2			
				1	3	8		7

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/8

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Answer to previous puzzle

5	3	1	7	6	8	4	9	2
9	7	6	2	4	5	3	8	1
2	8	4	3	9	1	6	7	5
4	2	8	1	5	9	7	3	6
1	5	7	6	3	4	9	2	8
3	6	9	8	7	2	5	1	4
6	1	3	4	8	7	2	5	9
8	4	5	9	2	3	1	6	7
7	9	2	5	1	6	8	4	3

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/7

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OpenAI faces 7 lawsuits claiming ChatGPT drove people to suicide, delusions

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

OpenAI is facing seven lawsuits claiming ChatGPT drove people to suicide and harmful delusions even when they had no prior mental health issues.

The lawsuits filed Thursday in California state courts allege wrongful death, assisted suicide, involuntary manslaughter and negligence. Filed on behalf of six adults and one teenager by the Social Media Victims Law Center and Tech Justice Law Project, the lawsuits claim that OpenAI knowingly released GPT-4o prematurely, despite internal warnings that it was dangerously sycophantic and psychologically manipulative. Four of the victims died by suicide.

The teenager, 17-year-old Amaurie Lacey, began using ChatGPT for help, according to the lawsuit filed in San Francisco Superior Court. But instead of helping, "the defective and inherently dangerous ChatGPT product caused addiction, depression, and, eventually, counseled him on the most effective way to tie a noose and how long he would be able to "live without breathing.'"

"Amaurie's death was neither an accident nor a coincidence but rather the foreseeable consequence of OpenAI and Samuel Altman's intentional decision to curtail safety testing and rush ChatGPT onto the market," the lawsuit says.

OpenAI called the situations "incredibly heartbreaking" and said it was reviewing the court filings to understand the details.

Another lawsuit, filed by Alan Brooks, a 48-year-old in Ontario, Canada, claims that for more than two years ChatGPT worked as a "resource tool" for Brooks.

Then, without warning, it changed, preying on his vulnerabilities and "manipulating, and inducing him to experience delusions. As a result, Allan, who had no prior mental health illness, was pulled into a mental health crisis that resulted in devastating financial, reputational, and emotional harm."

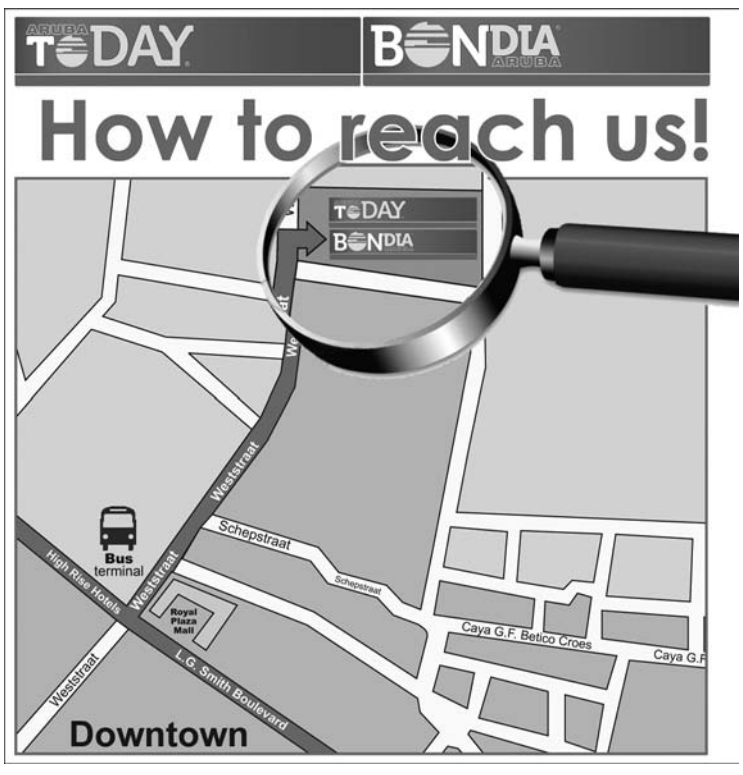
"These lawsuits are about accountability for a product that was designed to blur the line between tool and companion all in the name of increasing user engagement and market share," said Matthew P. Bergman, founding attorney of the Social Media Victims Law Center, in a statement.

OpenAI, he added, "designed GPT-4o to emotionally entangle users, regardless of age, gender, or background, and released it without the safeguards needed to protect them." By rushing its product to market without adequate safeguards in order to dominate the market and boost engagement, he said, OpenAI compromised safety and prioritized "emotional manipulation over ethical design."

In August, parents of 16-year-old Adam Raine sued OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman, alleging that ChatGPT coached the California boy in planning and taking his own life earlier this year.❑

The OpenAI logo appears on a mobile phone in front of a screen showing part of the company website in this photo taken on Nov. 21, 2023 in New York.

Associated Press



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Jet Blue	588 2244
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

ARUBA TODAY

The shutdown has disrupted air travel. Will that drive a surge in car rentals and train bookings?

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. government shutdown has rattled air travel — most recently with an unprecedented effort from the Federal Aviation Administration to cut flights by 10% at airports nationwide. And the disruptions are causing some to instead hit the road or buy a train ticket.

That could mean more and more business for car rentals, long-haul buses and commuter rails like Amtrak particularly if flight delays and cancellations continue piling up as the U.S. approaches Thanksgiving and other peak holiday travel.

Amid the latest scramble, Hertz is already reporting a sharp increase in one-way car rentals. One-way reservations have spiked more that 20% through the coming weekend compared with the same period last year, according to the company, which has also pointed to the shutdown's ongoing strain on travel overall.

"We join the airlines in urging Congress to swiftly pass a clean continuing resolution and restore certainty for travelers," Hertz CEO Gil West said in a statement. "Every day of delay creates unnecessary disruption."

Travelers wait in line at the rental car center at George Bush Intercontinental Airport on Friday, Nov. 7, 2025, in Houston.

Associated Press

Amtrak, meanwhile, is predicting record Thanksgiving numbers.

The rail service said it began to see those bookings grow before the shutdown began but told The Associated Press on Thursday that it was also "reasonable to expect an increased share shift to Amtrak" if flight disruptions mount. Amtrak has maintained that its routes are running normally amid the shutdown.

Flix North America, the parent company of FlixBus and Greyhound, is also preparing for more demand.

"Our message is simple: you still have options," said Kai Boysan, CEO of Flix North America.

Boysan maintained that intercity buses are "one of the most dependable ways to get around" and not impacted by the shutdown like flights are. "We anticipate more travelers may turn to ground transportation in the days ahead, and we're monitoring demand closely and prepared to add capacity where needed to ensure people can keep moving," he added.

A Flix spokesperson said Friday that many of its bookings typically occur within 24 to 72 hours of departure, noting that the company should have a "clearer picture" of the overall impact in the coming days.

Still, train and bus routes are sometimes more available in certain parts of the country than others. And some have also encountered sold-out tickets or rentals in recent days instead turning to other creative options.

Karen Soika from Greenwich, Connecticut, found out Friday morning that her flight out of Newark, New Jersey, was rebooked for an hour earlier. But she later learned her plane was actually leaving from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport instead, at least an hour away.

She unsuccessfully tried to book a rental car to get to Utah for a weekend trip, before settling on another option: booking a U-Haul.

"I'm going to U-Haul and I'm going to drive a truck cross country," said Soika.

Meanwhile, others are hoping to avoid lengthy alternatives.❑

Trading firm Gunvor, accused by U.S. of being 'Kremlin's puppet,' drops plan to buy Lukoil assets

GENEVA (AP) — A top-tier international commodities trader has dropped plans to buy the international assets of Russia oil company Lukoil as it rejected U.S. government allegations of being "the Kremlin's puppet."

Trading firm Gunvor, whose main trading office is in Geneva, announced on X that it's withdrawing its proposal to acquire the Lukoil assets, a deal that the Russian company announced last week. Lukoil said it agreed to the deal, pending some conditions including permission from the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, or OFAC. Terms of the deal were not specified.

Close of Lukoil logo at the empty building of Lukoil headquarters in Sofia, Bulgaria, Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025.

Associated Press

On the same social media platform late Thursday, the Treasury Department alluded to Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to send Russian troops to invade Ukraine in February 2022 and U.S. President Donald Trump's efforts to end the war, which has killed and injured hundreds of thousands of people.

"President Trump has been clear that the war must end immediately," the department's post on X said. "As long as Putin continues the senseless killings, the Kremlin's puppet, Gunvor, will never get a license to operate and profit."

Gunvor, in its post shortly afterward, said Treasury's statement about it was "fundamentally misinformed and false."

"Gunvor is and has always been open and transparent about its ownership and business, and has for more than a decade actively distanced itself from Russia, stopped trading in line with sanctions, sold off Russian assets, and publicly condemned the war in Ukraine," the post said.

"We welcome the opportunity to ensure this clear misunderstanding is corrected. In the meantime, Gunvor withdraws its proposal for Lukoil's international assets," it added.

Gunvor was founded by Swedish oil magnate Torbjörn Törnqvist, its chairman, and Gennady Timchenko, an oligarch close to Putin. Its headquarters are in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The company says Timchenko is no longer affiliated with Gunvor and his shares, in anticipation of "potential economic sanctions," were sold to Törnqvist in March 2014 as Russia moved to annex the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine.❑

NCAA revokes eligibility of 6 more college basketball players as it continues sports betting probe

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

The NCAA revoked the eligibility of six men's college basketball players on Friday as a result of three separate sports-betting cases that involved a power-conference school and allegations of players throwing games to lose by more points than the spread.The NCAA Committee on Infractions released findings from an investigation that concluded Chatton "BJ" Freeman at Arizona State; Cedquavious Hunter, Dyquavian Short and Jamond Vincent at New Orleans and Donovan Sanders and Alvin Stredic at Mississippi Valley State either manipulated their performances to lose games, not cover bet lines or ensure certain prop bets were reached, or provided information that enabled others to do so during the 2024-25 regular season.

The development comes as the sporting world contends with mounting scrutiny over betting. Nearly three dozen people were arrested last month, including an NBA player and coach, for what federal law enforcement officials described as their involvement in various illicit gambling activities. Just this week, UFC President and CEO Dana White said he was in touch with the FBI regarding a match that involved unusual betting patterns.

For its part, the NCAA said last month it was investigating at least 30 current or former players for gambling allegations. The NCAA also banned three college basketball players in September for betting on their own games at Fresno State and San Jose State.

In this March 22, 2010, file photo, basketballs sit in a rack before an college basketball practice in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Associated Press

Arizona State is the only power-conference school involved in the recent announcements. Freeman became implicated in the investigation when the NCAA reviewed text messages between him and a player banned in September, Mykell Robinson, who played at Fresno State. Records on Robinson's phone indicated that on four separate occasions between November and December 2024, Freeman knowingly provided information to Robinson, who was betting on Freeman through daily fantasy sports accounts.

Freeman also knowingly provided information on at least two occasions to his then-girlfriend, who was also betting on Freeman.

In one instance, Freeman provided information to Robinson to bet the over on Freeman's turnover total against Florida on Dec. 14, 2024, according to the NCAA. Arizona State entered the game 8-1, having recently beaten two eventual-NCAA Tournament teams. The Sun Devils lost 83-66 to the ninth-ranked Gators, and went on to finish the season 13-20. Freeman had one turnover in the game.

Arizona State declined to comment on the case when contacted by The Associated Press.

The violations at New Orleans against Hunter, Short and Vincent came to light after the NCAA received a tip about game manipulation. The NCAA said a student-athlete overheard the three players discuss a third party placing a bet on their game against McNeese State on Dec. 28, 2024. New Orleans lost 86-61.

That same student-athlete reported that during a timeout near the end of the game, Short instructed him not to score any more points.

New Orleans suspended all three student-athletes for the remainder of the season while it investigated the allegations.

The NCAA investigation showed that the three players manipulated their performances in seven games from December through January to lose by more points than the spread for that game.

The NCAA reached out to an integrity monitoring service to review Mississippi Valley State games after a related, but separate NBA gambling ring that was uncovered earlier this year showed potential ties to college basketball, including the school.

The service indicated betting trends for the Mississippi Valley State games on Jan. 6 against Alabama A&M were suspicious. Mississippi Valley State lost 79-67.

During an interview with the NCAA, a men's basketball student-athlete said that before the team's Dec. 21, 2024, game, he overhead Sanders on the phone with an unknown third party talking about "throwing the game."

Sanders asked the student-athlete to participate in the call because the third party had told Sanders the individual intended to bet on the game and wanted to know that another of Sanders' teammates would participate in the scheme.❑

Sabalenka overcomes Anisimova and lines up Rybakina in title match at WTA Finals

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — No. 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka reached the title match at the WTA Finals for the first time in three years after overcoming Amanda Anisimova 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the semifinals on Friday.

Sabalenka will play first-time finalist Elena Rybakina on Saturday.

No. 6 Rybakina beat No. 5 Jessica Pegula 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 on the back of 15 aces.

Sabalenka was pushed to the brink by No. 4 Anisimova, who matched Sabalenka's power and aggression for more than two hours in a rematch of the U.S. Open final.

Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion from Kazakhstan, has won all four of her matches this week, and clinched the win over Pegula on her first match point.

"It was not easy to come back but I'm glad I managed to find my way in the second set and win it in this three-sets battle," Rybakina said.

"The serve, when I needed it, helped me." Pegula reached the final in 2023.❑

Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus celebrates after winning a point against Amanda Anisimova of the United States during their women's singles semifinal match at the WTA tennis finals in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Friday, Nov. 7, 2025.

Associated Press

Jalen Ramsey is the Steelers' best cornerback. He might be their best safety at the moment, too

By WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jalen Ramsey wasn't kidding when he told Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin after arriving in a trade with Miami early last summer that he would do whatever was necessary to win.

The seven-time Pro Bowler and three-time All-Pro cornerback revisited the conversation with Tomlin last week ahead of a meeting with Indianapolis.

The Steelers and their struggling secondary were hurting, both figuratively and literally, after getting shredded in back-to-back weeks by Joe Flacco and Jordan Love.

DeShon Elliott was headed to injured reserve after hyperextending his right knee in a way that likely ended his season. Jabrill Peppers and Chuck Clark were battling health issues of their own. Veteran Juan Thornhill was struggling in coverage, and newly acquired Kyle Dugger had been in town for all of a day or two.

During a chat he described as "mutual," Ramsey, Tomlin and defensive coordinator Teryl Austin hatched a plan that moved one of the league's most respected defenders to safety — a position he hadn't played since his freshman year at Florida State, well over a decade ago — on an interim basis in hopes of providing some stability to a unit that had seen little of it during a frequently rocky opening two months to the season.

Green Bay Packers' Josh Jacobs tries to get past Pittsburgh Steelers' Jalen Ramsey during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

The results were promising. With Ramsey allowed to roam a little more freely, Pittsburgh limited the NFL's highest-scoring offense to 20 points (half of them in garbage time) and forcing six turnovers to snap a two-game losing streak.

Ramsey figures to be on the back end again Sunday night in Los Angeles, where another difficult test awaits against Justin Herbert and the Chargers (6-3).

It's a job Ramsey is more than willing to do, just don't suggest he's ready to make the move there full-time like Hall of Famer Rod Woodson did late in his career.

"I'm on my own path," Ramsey said Friday. "So I'm embracing my own journey."

One that has seen Ramsey go from Steelers tormentor — he was the linchpin of a young Jacksonville defense that stunned Pittsburgh in the divisional round of the 2017 playoffs — to a respected voice in a room filled with veterans like T.J. Watt and Cam Heyward, whose resumes rival Ramsey's save for the Super Bowl ring Ramsey won with the Los Angeles Rams in 2022.

With the Steelers wobbling after consecutive losses to Cincinnati and Green Bay, Tomlin asked Ramsey and tight end Jonnu Smith to speak to the team ahead of the visit by the Colts. The exact contents of Ramsey's pep talk are a mystery. He declined to get into specifics about it, and his teammates offered little in the way of details except for Ramsey urging them to "play with an edge."

It's an edge that Ramsey has carried with him throughout his career, and one that has served a secondary in need of a new alpha after Pittsburgh sent Minkah Fitzpatrick to the Dolphins in exchange for Ramsey and Smith.

"Jalen leads in a different way, but you see his energy week in and week out," Heyward said. "It's infectious."

And also necessary. Ramsey's intensity is buffeted by a high-level football IQ, one of the many reasons Tomlin and Austin felt comfortable approaching him about moonlighting at safety while Brandin Echols took on a larger role in the cornerback rotation.

"Whatever you need to do to win, he's all for," Austin said. "So, it was no problem. There was no kickback. It was actually like 'OK, Hey, what do you need me to do? Let's go.'"

As easy as Ramsey made it appear at times, he stressed it was not like riding a bike. It was challenging, but in a way that appealed to him.

"Playing corner for 10 years, you kind of learn the game and it kind of becomes 'Same old, same old, same old' every day," he said.

It sounds like a humble brag. It's not. Sitting in meetings with the safeties over the last two weeks has been educational in a way that Ramsey didn't necessarily expect when he agreed to the assignment.

"I'm learning kind of new things to look at, different ways to look at the game from a safety's point of view," he said. "It's been cool."

Just don't expect it to be permanent. Ramsey still considers himself a shutdown corner. The safety thing is just a side gig still at this point in his career, though who knows what might await down the road.❑

Los Angeles Angels' Zach Neto runs the bases after hitting a home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins, Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

Mason Miller, Zach Neto, Maikel Garcia among 34 Super 2s eligible for salary arbitration

NEW YORK (AP) — San Diego reliever Mason Miller, Los Angeles Angels shortstop Zach Neto and Kansas City third baseman Maikel Garcia are among 34 players with two-to-three years or service time who are eligible for salary arbitration. Colorado outfielder Brenton Doyle, Milwaukee shortstop Brice Turang, Cincinnati shortstop Matt McLain and Washington right-hander Jake Irvin also made the cutoff of 2 years, 140 days of major league service.

Seattle right-hander Kowar Jackson, Tampa Bay right-hander Manuel Rodríguez and Cincinnati left-hander Brandon Williamson just missed at 2 years, 139 days. Behind them at 2 years, 136 days were San Francisco catcher Patrick Bailey, Royals right-hander Kuis Erceg and Giants right-hander Ryan Walker. The cutoff was up from 2 years, 132 days last offseason and 2 years, 118 days for 2024. The cutoff was as low as 2 years, 115 days in 2019 and as high as 2 years, 146 days in 2011.

McLain was the last player above the cutoff at 2 years, 140 days. New York Mets right-hander Reed Garrett has 2 years, 143 days, and Houston outfielder Taylor Trammell and St. Louis left-hander Matthew Liberatore each has 2 years, 144 days. Tampa Bay right-hander Alex Faedo would have been eligible but was designated for assignment this week and elected free agency.

The top 22% of players by service time with at least two years but less than three are eligible for arbitration as long as they had at least 86 days of service this year. They join the group of three-to-six-year players.❑